

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MAYOR GIGI GRUBER

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant from my Congressional District, Mayor Claudia "Gigi" Gruber of Itasca. After twelve years as Mayor, Gigi is stepping down.

In her first experience with elected public office, Gigi served one term as a Village Trustee in Itasca. Then, in May 1997, Gigi was elected Mayor of Itasca. Over the years, Gigi has been an insightful observer, keen in her understanding of the long-term challenges facing the Village. Throughout her career, she has tackled these challenges with deft skill, deep understanding, and strong personal integrity.

While constant change has brought a steady stream of new difficulties for Itasca to confront, one thing has remained the same. Mayor Gruber has kept a steady hand to the wheel, advising the Village Board and working tirelessly for the benefit of the community and her residents.

Gigi Gruber has been an advocate for the people of Itasca since her very first days in office. Gigi truly embodies the meaning of a public servant as she approaches her job with compassion and humility. In her time with the Village, she has shown true leadership to bring economic development to the area. Gigi has improved all of our lives and left an indelible impression on the Village of Itasca.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Gigi Gruber is a remarkable leader who has dedicated her life to serving the people of Itasca. Please join me in recognizing her extraordinary service and wishing her every happiness in her life's upcoming endeavors.

A TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF
MANUEL BURGOS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Manuel Burgos, a distinguished community activist of East New York.

Manuel Burgos is a true East New Yorker and operates the small business Rare Arts. Growing up in East New York during the 1970s enabled Mr. Burgos to see first hand how disinvestments, crime, lack of social services and inadequate healthcare effects the neighborhood he is from. Mr. Burgos decided to enter community service to enhance the atmosphere and nature of East New York.

Before he turned 13, Mr. Burgos had already participated in many vacant lot cleanups throughout the neighborhood. By his late teens he worked as a youth leader in his

church's efforts to provide a Friday night safe haven for other youth in his neighborhood. At the age of 16, Mr. Burgos worked on a political campaign that made him realize political participation was the necessary means to effecting real change in communities like East New York. While in college he learned of the community organizing work of other young Latinos around the country and this shaped his future in critical ways.

Throughout his twenties, Mr. Burgos worked in his church as a youth mentor providing youth programming and a safe haven for teens. He worked in several nonprofits such as Cypress Hills LDC and the East New York Urban Youth Corps (ENYUYC) as a director for afterschool programming. While working for ENYUYC Mr. Burgos partnered with local police, community leaders, residents and merchants in a pilot program called Community Safety Initiative (CSI) to create a powerful problem solving consortium that was directly responsible for significant drops in violent crime. During this time, Mr. Burgos served as co-writer of the East New York Weed & Seed.

Today Mr. Burgos continues his work as a technical assistance provider on the local level, giving back to community projects that he helped build years ago. He has authored many papers on community-based collaborative problem solving and he developed a training guide on the same subject. His business, Rare Arts, is the mold of his writing and designing skills.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Manuel Burgos.

AARON MENDOZA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aaron Mendoza who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Aaron Mendoza is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Aaron Mendoza is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Aaron Mendoza for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

HONORING WILL ORR FOR HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young man from Georgia's 11th Congressional District who has distinguished himself as an excellent student and leader and has committed to serving his country. I am proud to announce that William Orr from Rome, Georgia, has received an appointment to the United States Military Academy. Will attends Darlington School, where he has a 3.93 Grade Point Average and has been selected as a member of the National Honor Society. In addition to his academic achievements, Will has also been an athletic star for Darlington, where he has played on Darlington's football, basketball, and soccer teams. He has earned varsity letters in four sports while at Darlington and was a captain on the football team for two years. Will is also very dedicated to public service and has participated in multiple mission trips with his church. Further, he has been selected to be a part of West Point's Summer Leadership Seminar.

Will Orr is an incredibly well-rounded young man, and I am honored to have the privilege to nominate him for an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy. I ask that my colleagues take this time to congratulate Will as well as his parents, James and Jo Orr, for all of his accomplishments. It is because of dedicated young people like Will that America has the finest military in the world. Our nation is fortunate to have his service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 21, 2009, I was unavoidably delayed and unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 288 through 291. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on No. 288, "yes" on No. 289, "no" on No. 290, and "yes" on No. 291.

TRIBUTE TO SSG JEFFREY ALAN HALL

HON. PARKER GRIFFITH

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of SSG Jeffrey Alan Hall.

On June 1, 2009, Jeffrey Hall and two other soldiers were killed in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb west of Kabul. Jeffrey was part of

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